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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of :  
Hiromu SUGINO : Attn: BOX PCT  
Serial No. NEW : Docket No. 2001\_0559A  
Filed May 11, 2001 :

NOVEL PROTEIN AND UTILIZATION THEREOF  
[Corresponding to PCT/JP99/06275  
Filed November 11, 1999]

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents,  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Page 1, immediately after the title, please insert:

A1 This application is a 371 of PCT/JP99/06275 filed November 11, 1999.

Page 12, line 19 to page 13, line 17 please rewrite as follows:

22. A method for screening a compound or a salt thereof inhibiting or promoting a binding of the protein according to item 1, the protein according to item 2, the partial peptide according to item 6 or a salt thereof to the protein according to item 17 or a salt thereof, activin receptors or activin intracellular information transmission molecules, which comprises comparing the case where the labeled protein according to item 1, the labeled protein according to item 2, the labeled partial peptide according to item 6 or a labeled salt thereof is contacted with a membrane fraction of cells expressing the protein according to item 17 or a salt thereof, activin receptors or activin intracellular information transmission molecules, with the case where the labeled protein